Claims 1 and 17 were amended to more distinctly claim Applicants' invention. Claim 5 was amended for clarity. The amendments to the claims are supported by the originally filed disclosure.

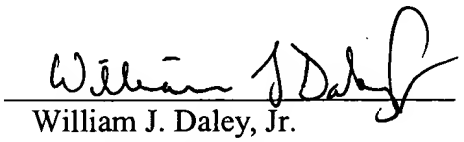
Included herewith is a marked-up version of the amendments to the subject application by the current amendment. The marked-up versions are found on the pages captioned or entitled "Details of Amendments" that follow the signature page of the within Response.

It is respectfully submitted that the subject application is in a condition for allowance. Early and favorable action is requested.

Applicants believe that additional fees are not required for consideration of the within Preliminary Amendment. However, if for any reason a fee is required, a fee paid is inadequate or credit is owed for any excess fee paid, you are hereby authorized and requested to charge Deposit Account No. **04-1105**.

Respectfully submitted,
EDWARDS & ANGELL, LLP
DBRC Intellectual Property Practice Group

Date: March 28, 2003

By: 

William J. Daley, Jr.
(Reg. No. 35,487)
P.O. Box 9169
Boston, MA 02209
(617) 439- 4444

DETAILS OF AMENDMENTS

Please preliminarily amend the subject continued prosecution application (CPA) as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Amend claims 1, 5 and 17 to read as follows:

1. (AMENDED) A digital optical communication device comprising:

an optical reception circuit converting an optical signal received from any external source to an electric signal;

a decoding circuit decoding the electric signal resultant from conversion by said optical reception circuit and judging whether or not the decoding is normally completed;

a reception light intensity level judgement circuit judging an intensity level of received light based on the electric signal resultant from conversion by said optical reception circuit, wherein circuitry of the reception light intensity level judgment circuit for judging an intensity level of received light is configured so as to output one intensity level judgment signal of a plurality of intensity level judgment signals, said one intensity level judgment signal being representative of one determined light emission intensity;

a coding circuit coding transmission data; ~~and~~

an optical transmission circuit determining a light emission intensity based on result of the judgement by said reception light intensity level judgement circuit and result of the judgement by said decoding circuit and converting the transmission data coded by said coding circuit to an optical signal with the determined light emission intensity; and

wherein circuitry of the optical transmission circuit for converting the transmission data to an optical signal having the light emission intensity is configured so as to be capable of

outputting optical signals having any one of a plurality of light emission intensities and wherein a specific one of the plurality of light emissions intensities is selected as said determined light emission intensity responsive to said one intensity level judgment signal.

5. (AMENDED) A digital optical communication device comprising:

an optical reception circuit converting an optical signal received from any external source to an electric signal;

a decoding circuit decoding the electric signal resultant from conversion by said optical reception circuit, judging whether or not the decoding is normally completed, and extracting reception light intensity information of a secondary station;

a coding circuit coding transmission data; and

an optical transmission circuit determining a light emission intensity based on the reception light intensity information of the secondary station extracted by said decoding circuit, and converting the transmission data coded by said coding circuit to an optical signal with the determined light emission intensity.

17. (AMENDED) A digital optical communication method comprising the steps of converting an optical signal received from any external source to an electric signal;

decoding said electric signal resultant from conversion and judging whether or not the decoding is normally completed;

judging an intensity level of received light based on said electric signal resultant from conversion and providing a specific one of a plurality of intensity judgment signal, said specific one judgment signal being representative of one determined light emission intensity;

coding transmission data; and

determining a light emission intensity based on said judged intensity level of the received

light and on result of said judgement as to whether or not the decoding is normally completed, and converting said coded transmission data to an optical signal with the determined light emission intensity, wherein said converting includes selecting a specific one of a plurality of light emission intensities based on said specific one intensity level judgment signal.